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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

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1879

OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEB. 19, 1879.



NORTHFIELD, VT.,
NEWS JOB PRINT, CENTRAL BLOCK.
1879.

Annual Town Meeting.

The inhabitants of the town of Northfield, who are legal voters in town meeting, are hereby notified to meet in Concert Hall, in the Village of Northfield, on Tuesday, the 4th day of March, A. D. 1879, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the following purpose, "to wit:—"

- 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.
- 2d. To hear and act upon the several town reports.
- 3d. To elect all necessary town officers.
- 4th. To choose a "Text-book Committee" of two persons, for the term of five years next ensuing.
- 5th. To raise money to defray the current expenses of the town, and its indebtedness.
- 6th. To see if the town will raise money for highway purposes, in addition to the legal highway tax.
- 7th. To see if the town will exempt the polls of firemen from taxation.
- 8th. To see if the town will transfer the premises owned by Peter and Ellen Gilbert, from School District No. 20. to the Northfield Graded School District.
- 9th. To do any other proper business; also to vote for County Commissioner.

GEO. NICHOLS,	} Selectmen.
JAMES MORSE,	
ROYAL W. CLARK,	

Northfield, Feb. 17, 1879.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The Auditors of the town of Northfield, in pursuance of their duty, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Overseer of the Poor, the Treasurer, and other town officers for the year ending Feb. 19, 1879, and find them to be correctly rendered, and those of the Treasurer accompanied with proper vouchers.

The whole amount of orders issued by the Selectmen for the year is \$6590 81

Of which there has been paid 3681 05

Leaving amount of orders for the year unpaid \$2909 76
which embrace the following :

No. 13	L. W. Avery,	issued	Mar. 9, 1878	\$17 50
21	E. S. Stebbins,	"	Apr. 1, 1878	1116 25
33	O. O. Davis,	"	June 1, 1878	75 71
68	Betsey Porter,	"	Nov. 15, 1878	350 00
90	Bridget M. Sullivan,	"	Feb. 5, 1879	200 00
93	Northfield Savings Bk.	"	Feb. 13, 1879	300 00
97	O. O. Davis,	"	Feb. 14, 1879	73 91
107	Northfield Savings Bk.	"	Feb. 18, 1879	700 00
108	Northfield Savings Bk.	"	Feb. 18, 1879	76 39
				\$2909 76

Old orders outstanding in Selectmen's department.

No. 66	Ann Harrington,	issued	July 29, 1875	\$100 00
73	Northfield Savings Bk.	"	Nov. 21, 1876	500 00
80	S. P. Grow,	"	Jan. 13, 1877	500 00
95	John Plastridge,	"	Feb. 14, 1877	202 06
96	John Plastridge,	"	Feb. 14, 1877	31 42
20	Roxanna Nichols,	"	Mar. 23, 1877	1100 00
75	Moses Robinson,	"	Oct. 17, 1877	1000 00
106	Geo. F. Glidden,	"	Feb. 9, 1878	8 64
109	Geo. Nichols,	"	Feb. 13, 1878	247 95
110	Northfield Savings Bk.	"	Feb. 13, 1878	18 00
111	W. H. Morris,	"	Feb. 15, 1878	70 28
112	Mary J. Hopkins,	"	Feb. 15, 1878	42 37
113	O. O. Davis,	"	Feb. 15, 1878	130 56
Due to individuals as by previous reports,				160 01
Orders outstanding previous to Feb. 25, 1874,				105 68
Interest on United States deposit				407 33
Claims of town officers for services during				
the year,				517 32
Due town agent for expenses as per his report				13 68
				5155 30
				\$8065 06

ASSETS.

Due on F. W. Gold's tax-bill of June 2, 1876, net	\$175	00
Amount of liquor on hand Feb. 18, 1879,	395	93
Bbls., kegs, &c.,	24	25
Cash in agents hands,	89	65
Cash in treasury,	580	15
		1264 98

Excess of liabilities over assets \$6800 08

The reports of the several town officers are hereto annexed, to which reference is respectfully made.

J. H. ORCUTT,	} Auditors.
S. F. JUDD,	
E. S. STEBBINS,	

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 19, 1879.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen respectfully report that the whole amount of orders issued for the year ending February 19, 1879, is \$6590 81
Of which there were issued on account of renew-

al of old orders,	\$1897 70
On account of money loaned,	776 39
On account of interest,	743 94
For "History of Northfield"—by vote of town,	500 00
For abatement and rebate of taxes,	569 73
For County tax of 1 per cent, on list of 1877,	75 71
For sheep killed by dogs,	25 50
For errors of taxes,	7 88
For money held in trust,	10 00
For salaries of 1877,	394 13
For rent of Concert Hall,	30 00
	\$5030 98

Leaving the current expenses of the Selectmen's Department, \$1559 83

Respectfully submitted,	} Selectmen.
GEORGE NICHOLS,	
JAMES MORSE,	
ROYAL W. CLARK,	

Northfield, Vt., February 19, 1879.

The following is a schedule of orders drawn by the Selectmen for the year ending February 19, 1879:

No.

1 Geo. Nichols, services as Selectman and cash paid out in 1877,	\$75 38
2 James Morse, services as Selectman in 1877,	56 25
3 Royal W. Clark, " " "	57 50
4 Julius H. Ransom, services as Lister in 1877,	30 00
5 Edward H. Howes, " " "	18 75
6 Freeman Thresher, " " "	50 00
7 Carlos S. Richmond, services as Treasurer in 1877,	20 00
8 Franklin A. Preston, services as Overseer in 1877,	70 00

9 James Morse, Clerk of Abating Board, for services of said Board in abating taxes,	3 15
10 Geo. H. Crane, services as Auditor in 1877 and cash paid,	5 60
11 E. S. Stebbins, " " "	3 75
12 Simon F. Judd, " " "	3 75
13 L. W. Avery, damages on highway,	17 50
14 S. F. Judd, rent of Concert Hall to Nov. 17, 1878,	30 00
15 P. D. Bradford, professional services in the case of Miss Green,	10 00
16 E. W. Howe, costs in case of Town vs. Cady,	21 93
17 Wm. D. Plastringer, extra services on highway,	90 00
18 Geo. H. Crane, Trustee, interest on Deposit Fund,	407 33
19 Geo. B. B. Denny, registration records,	28 05
20 Roxanna Nichols, one year's interest on order No. 20, of 1877,	66 00
21 Edwin S. Stebbins, renewal of orders Nos. 64 and 72 of 1876: and Nos. 9, 16, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 56, 67, 68, 69, 76, 81, 82 and 83 of 1877, 1047.70, and interest on the same, \$68.55,	1116.25
22 John L. Moseley, plank, timber and labor on bridge in the Depot village,	120.31
23 Arvilla Churchill, money held in trust,	10.00
24 Amos Wardner, plank for bridge,	11.34
25 E. L. Soper, powder for highway purposes,	3 50
26 Horace Mahuron, damages on highway,	3 50
27 Carrie M. Persons, interest on order No. 30, 1877,	30 00
28 E. H. Howes, labor on, and plank for, highway,	40 29
29 David Denny, extra labor on highway,	5 36
30 George Corbea, labor on highway and damage to sled,	4 00
31 Eugenie Carpenter, plank and labor on highway,	5 82
32 Hiram Atkins, printing town reports for 1878,	20 00
33 O. O. Davis, Collector, County tax assessed on list of '77,	75 71
34 Wallace Felch, repairing bridge,	16 48
35 A. D. Metcalf, damage to wagon on highway,	4 15
36 Northfield Savings Bank, interest on order No. 50 of 1877, to June 1, 1878,	60 00
37 Wm. M. Smith, balance due for lumber and labor on bridge,	17 55
38 Nelson Duffany, damage on highway,	30 00
39 Samuel Andrews, labor on highway,	33 45
40 Salina Reed, building bridge near Wm. H. Loomis's,	75 00
41 Francis Roberts, labor on highway,	4 00
42 L. L. Putney, labor and lumber for highway,	34 03
43 W. H. & W. E. Dunsmoor, building bridges,	110 00
44 H. W. Davis, lumber for bridges,	19 52
45 Wm. M. Wiley, lumber and labor on highway,	12 98
46 John A. Tyler, plank for highway,	3 28
47 Wm. E. Dunsmoor, timber for, and labor on, bridge,	9 70
48 Ann Harrington, interest on order No. 66, of 1875,	6 00
49 Freeman Reed, building bridge,	8 25
50 Darius Thomas, error in town tax,	2 92
51 Frank Willey, plank,	8 08
52 Geo. W. Hadley, plank and timber for highway,	8 39
53 Wallace Felch, building bridge near E. C. Fisk's,	18 00
54 D. T. Averill, timber for highway,	5 50
55 Elmer Morse, laying abutments, etc., for bridge,	38 79
56 H. W. Thresher, plank for highway,	10 85

57 Michael Sployd, building bridge and extra work on highway,	31 69
58 Northfield Savings Bank, interest on orders,	51 09
59 Amos Wardner, plank for highway,	15 35
60 T. B. R. Hildreth, building bridge,	25 00
61 Denny & Brown, lumber for highway purposes,	41 61
62 Lester Martyn, Agent, insurance assessment,	9 07
63 C. W. Aldrich, building bridge,	43 00
64 Morrill Gilman, cedar posts for highway,	19 86
65 Geo. H. Bailey, repairing bridges and lumber for same,	62 45
66 Freeman Thresher, plank for highway,	3 25
67 Vt. Reform School, support of Geo. Brown,	6 14
68 Betsey Porter, renewal of order No. 87, of 1877,	350 00
69 Betsey Porter, interest on above order one year,	20 75
70 Roswell Dewey, surveying,	3 00
71 L. L. Putney, plank, and labor for highway,	20 65
72 T. B. R. Hildreth, labor on highway,	3 90
73 Laban Webster, plank for highway,	9 60
74 Joseph Gold, timber for highway,	1 34
75 Timothy Glennon, damage on highway,	8 00
76 Thos. Elliott, labor, and lumber for highway,	47 43
77 Denny & Brown, assignees, covering bridge and lumber for same extra,	80 00
78 Geo. B. B. Denny, record book, ballot boxes, etc.,	29 25
79 Plumley & Johnston, professional services,	58 72
80 E. H. Howes, sheep killed by dogs,	10 00
81 Timothy Holland, sheep killed by dogs,	13 00
82 N. K. Woodbury, sheep killed by dogs,	2 50
83 Freeman Reed, labor and material for highway,	15 15
84 Asa Howe, surveying,	20 00
85 Moses L. Field, labor on highway,	13 61
86 Vt. Reform School, support of Geo. Brown to Feb. 1, '79,	6 43
87 Ellen Mackin, error in taxes,	2 48
88 Mary A. Mackin, error in taxes,	2 48
89 Bridget M. Sullivan, interest on order No. 83, of 1877,	11 89
90 Bridget M. Sullivan, renewal of order No. 83 of 1877,	200 00
91 Frank Willey, timber for bridge,	1 50
92 Hiram Atkins, on account of publishing History of Northfield,	400 00
93 Northfield Savings Bk., renewal of order No. 91, of '77,	300 00
94 do. do. interest on do. do.	18 15
95 F. W. Gold, plank and timber for highway in 1877,	4 47
96 Geo. H. Crane, Treasurer of Committee, on account of publishing History of Northfield,	100 00
97 O. O. Davis, abatement of town taxes, list of 1877, as of Feb. 14 1878, \$69.73, and interest on the same \$4.18, receipt having been taken up at that date,	73 91
98 O. O. Davis, rebate of 10 per cent made upon town taxes of 1878, as were paid prior to October 1st of that year,	500 00
99 W. H. Morris, repair of, and driving hearse,	40 51
100 Nichols & Williams, stationery and cash paid per order of Selectmen,	4 44
101 Boynton & Moseley, labor done on highway,	13 00
102 Jas. N. Johnson, legal services,	22 84
103 Patrick McNamara, damage done on highway,	4 12
104 Geo. M. Fisk, legal services,	39 00

105	E. Porter, medecines and post mortem on Green girl,	3 85
106	C. S. Richmond, printing circulars and order books, and postage,	2 00
107	Northfield Savings Bank, money loaned,	700 00
108	do. do. do.	76 39

\$6590 81

We have, this 19th day of February, 1879, examined the foregoing account of the Selectmen and find it correct.

J. H. ORCUTT,	} Auditors:
S. F. JUDD,	
E. S. STEBBINS,	

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

DEBIT.

Value of Farm and improvements as reported February
20, 1878,

Value of Farm	\$2500 00
One year's interest on same,	150 00
Stock, farming tools, furniture, produce and provisions,	984 65
Grocery account,	134 56
Repairs and supplies,	156 73
School tax	3 80
Labor account in full to Feb. 15, 1879,	249 37
Blacksmith account,	6 89
Medicine account,	3 42
	<hr/>
	\$4189 42

CREDIT.

Value of Farm,	\$2500 00
House furniture, &c.,	178 60
Farming utensils,	133 05
Wood,	72 00
Sugar utensils,	44 50
Produce and provisions,	164 49
Hay and grain,	95 20
Stock on farm,	281 75
Stock and produce sold,	124 20 3593 79

Expense of supporting the poor on town farm \$595 63

The following is a schedule of poor persons not on the Town Farm who have been helped by the Overseer of the Poor for the year ending Feb. 19, 1879.

Joseph Derry,	\$40 70
John Hill,	5 09
Warren Bruce	31 18
Byron Hunt and family,	88 04
Mrs. James McCarty,	9 12
Transient and Tramps,	39 25

Francis Yatter,	56 25
Horace Baker,	29 55
Samuel Bruso,	10 20
Mrs. Moses Miller,	5 85
Mrs. O'Neill,	31 51
Samuel Harwood	95 54
James Sprout,	43 28
Mrs. Viola C. Clark,	5 00
John Watters,	60
Joseph LaClair,	13 11
Edward Bain,	48 00
Geo. Amidon,	11 00
Wm. Kelsey,	23 36
Mrs. Alvin Smith,	52 00
Mrs. Margaret Malamphy,	18 16
Matthew Perkins,	5 80
Josephine Rogers,	1 25
Edward Veo,	117 00
Mrs. Alexander Henry,	10 48
Albert Mason,	5 30
Harriet Staples,	2 75
Augustus Boardman,	9 16
Expenses in case of Daniel Graves,	18 00
Joseph Paschal,	20 25
Mrs. Alex LaCoy,	2 89
Duffee Kindana,	6 68
Charles Shantell,	2 17
John Duval,	3 00
Fred Taro,	2 50
Benjamin Coburn,	3 56
Charles Davenport,	12 08
James Donahue,	4 61
Geo. F. Rich,	15 21
John Vayett,	12 83
Amount of orders for medical services,	76 50
	<hr/>
	\$988 81

There have been nine paupers kept on the town farm, their board amounting to four hundred and sixty eight weeks. There have also been twelve tramps kept on farm, their board amounting to ten days. There have also been kept off from farm one hundred and forty-one tramps, their board amounting to about fourteen weeks.

Whole expense of poor for the year as follows :

Expense of Town Farm,	\$595 63
Expense of poor not on the Farm,	988 81
Fifty seven and one-half days as Overseer,	71 88
	<hr/>
	\$1656 32

F. A. PRESTON, Overseer of Poor.

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 19, 1879.

This day settled with F. A. Preston, Overseer of the Poor, and find his account correct, and accompanied with proper vouchers.

J. H. ORCUTT,	} Auditors,
S. F. JUDD,	
E. S. STEBBINS,	

**SCHEDULE OF ORDERS ISSUED BY THE OVERSEER OF THE POOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 19, 1879.**

No. 1.	F. A. Preston,	\$200 00
2.	F. A. Preston,	150 00
3.	F. A. Preston,	100 00
4.	F. A. Preston,	200 00
5.	F. A. Preston,	150 00
6.	F. A. Preston,	100 00
7.	F. A. Preston,	100 00
8.	F. A. Preston,	100 00
9.	F. A. Preston,	200 00
10.	F. A. Preston,	119 38
		<hr/>
		\$1419 38

SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE TOWN FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY CERTAIN TOWN OFFICERS.

George Nichols, Selectman, 33 days,	\$41 25
James Morse, Selectman, 55 days,	68 75
R. W. Clark, Selectman, 52 days,	65 00
J. L. Moseley, Lister, 65½ days,	81 87
J. C. Gallup, Lister, 62½ days,	78 12
C. A. Tracy, Lister, 35 days,	43 75
F. A. Preston, Overseer, 57½ days,	71 88
C. S. Richmond, Treasurer,	20 00
S. F. Judd, services as Justice, order of removal,	1 50
Charles Dole, services as Justice order of removal,	1 50
D. T. Averill, revising check list, 2 days,	2 50
M. Cobleigh, revising check list, 1 day,	1 25
Howard Davis, revising check list, 1 day,	1 25
A. O. Smith, revising check list, 1 day,	1 25
Charles Dole, revising check list, 2 days,	2 50
S. D. Horner, revising check list, 1 day,	1 25
Andrew Howarth, revising check list, 1½ days,	1 87
S. F. Judd, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
E. H. Howes, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
J. C. Gallup, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
J. H. Ransom, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
Luther Rich, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
Geo. B. B. Denny, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
C. A. Tracy, Abating taxes, ½ day,	62
Charles Dole, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
D. T. Averill, abating taxes, ½ day,	62
J. P. Davis, services as Town Agent, 2 years,	15 00
J. H. Orcutt, Auditor,	3 75
S. F. Judd, Auditor,	3 75
E. S. Stebbins, Auditor,	3 75
	<hr/>
	\$517 32

We have examined the accounts of the several Town Officers for personal services rendered for the year ending Feb. 19, 1879, and find them correct.

J. H. ORCUTT,	} Auditors.
S. F. JUDD,	
E. S. STEBBINS,	

Northfield. Vt., Feb. 19, 1879,

LIQUOR AGENCY.

Amount of liquor on hand Feb. 18, 1879,	\$395 93
“ barrels, kegs, etc.,	24 25
“ cash received for liquors sold,	975 50
“ “ “ barrels and kegs	9 25
	<hr/> \$1404 93

Amount of liquors on hand Feb. 16, 1878,	\$469 36
“ barrels, kegs, etc.	28 00
Cash paid for liquors bought,	568 53
“ freight, salary, etc.,	126 57
Cash paid Town Treasurer,	200 00
Cash in hands of Agent,	89 65
	<hr/> 289 65
Decrease in Stock,	77 18—212 47—1404 93

Of confiscated liquor, there is on hand seven gallons cherry rum

GEORGE NICHOLS,	}	Selectmen.
JAMES MORSE,		
ROYAL W. CLARK,		

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 18, 1879.

SURPLUS FUND.

The Trustee of the Surplus Fund would report that the whole amount of the Fund, as of March 1, 1878, was \$6,788.84, for which amount the Trustee holds a note against the town. The amount of interest for the year ending March 1, 1879, will be \$407.33.

GEO. H. CRANE, Trustee.

Northfield, Vt., Feb., 19, 1879.

TOWN AGENT'S REPORT.

Your Town Agent would respectfully submit that in my last annual report I stated the case of Wm. D. Plastring vs. the Town of Northfield, and after a very careful and thorough examination of the case I became satisfied that it was not for the interest of Northfield to defend the suit. Therefore to save the town a bill of costs I negotiated a settlement, which was ratified by the Selectmen, to pay Mr. Plastring \$90.00, instead of \$108.76 as he claimed, being the best terms we could agree upon; Plastring paying all the costs.

In April last the Town of Hancock made an order of removal to remove two paupers, Mrs. Miranda Brown and Alonzo Brown, a cripple, to this town. From this order your Overseer of the Poor made an appeal to the County Court in Addison County. The Town Agent then took up the case, went to Warren, Granville and Hancock and after a careful investigation of the whole

matter became satisfied that it was for the interest of Northfield to defend the suit as there was likely to be very large bills for some town to pay. Hancock was cited here to attend the taking of the depositions of John Averill, Benoni Webster, and Isaac P. Jenks, former Overseers of the Poor, and other witnesses. Hancock, after hearing our side of the case, fearing they had a bad case proposed to settle and pay \$10.00 of the taxable costs then made. At the December term of Addison County Court there was a Judgment of Record rendered by the Court in favor of Northfield that the order of removal was unduly made. Hancock paying \$10.00 of the costs, Northfield preferring to pay the cost of record rather than have Hancock withdraw their suit and leave a question for dispute hereafter. The costs were \$15.40 and of this amount Hancock paid \$10.00, leaving costs to Northfield \$5.40. \$8.72 of the cost in Hancock suit was paid by F. Plumley, \$6.68 by J. P. Davis, the whole costs being \$15.40. \$10.00 was paid Town Treasurer by J. P. Davis, leaving costs to Northfield \$5.40.

TOWN AGENT'S EXPENSES.

Two years' services,	\$15 00	
Cash paid out for expenses,	3 00	
Use of team,	4 00	
Cash paid towards costs in Hancock suit,	6 68	
		\$28 68

J. P. DAVIS, Town Agent.

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 19, 1879.

MINISTERIAL MONEY.

The amount of ministerial money in the Treasury for the benefit of the several Religious Societies in town is \$38.49 and the division thereof is made as follows:

To the Methodist Episcopal Society,	\$7 69
" Protestant "	7 69
" Congregational "	7 69
" First Restoration "	7 69
" Roman Catholic "	7 69
Balance undivided,	04
	\$38 49

GEORGE NICHOLS, }
 JAMES MORSE. } Selectmen.
 ROYAL W. CLARK, }

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 19, 1879.

DIVISION OF SCHOOL MONEY.

DISTRICT.	ATTENDANCE.	AMOUNT.
No. 1.	876,	\$34 52
2.	1,293,	37 31
3.	3,762,	53 91
Northfield Graded School,	42,887,	317 04

5.	2,157,	43 14
6.	303,	30 66
7.	1,633,	39 60
8.	1,278,	37 22
9.	1,070,	35 82
10.	2,582,	45 98
11.	1,875,	41 23
Berlin Joint,	373,	12 69
13.	10,681,	100 44
Roxbury Joint,	1,139,	24 83
15.	841,	34 27
16.	495,	31 95
17.	948,	34 99
19.	883,	34 56
20.	1289,	37 28
Totals,	76,385,	\$1027 44

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a true division of the school money in the Treasury of the Town of Northfield, made agreeably to law.

GFORGE NICHOLS, }
 JAMES MORSE, } Selectmen.
 ROYAL W. CLARK, }

Northfield, Vt., March 22, 1878.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1878.		
Feb. 20.	Balance in Treasury,	\$1348 69
Apr. 23.	Received for cemetery lot,	15 00
May 1.	Received of Town Clerk—dog licenses,	272 60
Aug. 23.	Received for circus license,	10 00
Nov. 27.	From A. L. Smalley, sale of cemetery lot,	7 00
Dec. 7.	From James Morse, “ “	15 00
1879.		
Jan. 8.	For hay sold from cemetery,	5 50
Feb. 17.	Of J. P. Davis, Agt., toward costs in Hancock suit,	10 00
	Money from Liquor Agency.	200 00
	O. O. Davis's receipt.	5359 68
	From O. O. Davis, collection of arrears of highway tax of 1876,	22 82
	Money borrowed from Savings Bank,	776 39
		—————\$8042 68
1879.	CREDIT.	
Feb. 19.	Selectmen's orders paid,	\$5622 12
	Interest on same,	49 09
	Overseer's orders paid,	1569 38
	Interest on same,	21 25
	Justice of the Peace.	25 69
	Amount due on tax receipt,	175 00
	Cash on hand,	580 15
		—————\$8042 68

Due on F. W. Gold's receipt of June 2, '76, \$175 00
 Cash on hand, 580 15
 Ministerial money on hand, 04

Respectfully submitted,

C. S. RICHMOND, Treasurer.

We have this 19th day of February, 1879, examined the accounts of C. S. Richmond, Treasurer, and compared the same with the vouchers, and find them correct.

J. H. ORCUTT,
 S. F. JUDD, } Auditors.
 E. S. STEBBINS, }

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 19, 1879.

ESTIMATES FOR 1879-80.

Liabilities of the town:

Outstanding orders,	\$7126 73
Interest on U. S. deposits,	407 33
Claims of town officers for services the past year,	517 32
Due Town Agent for expenses as per his report,	13 68

\$8065 06

Available assets,

835 55

Leaving a net indebtedness of \$7229 51

Estimated expenses of Selectmen's department, \$1500 00

Estimated expenses of Overseer's department, 1600 00

Interest on U. S. deposit, 407 33

\$3507 33

Dog licenses on basis of last year,

100 00

\$3407 33

Amount necessary to provide for,

\$10636 84

Grand list of 1878, \$7603.14.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. ORCUTT,
 S. F. JUDD, } Auditors.
 E. S. STEBBINS, }

Northfield, Vt., Feb. 19, 1879.

TOWN SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

On account of having to make this report before the schools of the year closed, it is impossible to make as complete a report as I wish might be done. The registers not being filled out, the statistical information must be omitted. It is a thing to be desired, that the school year be so changed as to give Superintendents a chance to examine the completed district returns before the annual town meeting. The condition of the schools for the past year has been as good, for the most part, as could be expected. The instructions given will compare favorably with that of preceding years.

Not one half of the common school teachers are able to make their schools what they should be. They are fitted neither by education nor experience. They are not wholly to blame. The people do not demand it. It is as well for us to realize that the successful men of the coming generation must be better educated, at least, in some directions than are those of the present. And as the great part of our children will have to content themselves with what is known as a common school education, some elementary instruction should be given in those sciences that pertain most to daily life.

While the statistics, I shall give, make our schools compare very favorably with the other schools in County and State, and the record of this year is an improvement on that of last year, still, there is much room for improvement. While it is not to be expected that any great or radical change can be made in any one term or even in one year, there can be a gradual improvement brought about in a manner which would cause very little extra work or expense, but which would greatly advance the interests of education. It is my purpose, further on, to call your attention to the consideration of certain desirable changes as leading to a desired reformation in school matters.

It may be of interest to know how the town stands as compared to other towns regarding school attendance. The following facts are gathered from the report of State Supt. Conant, made to the State legislature at its last session. In the year 1876—77 about 77 per cent of the children of the State attended the common school—in Washington Co. 84 per cent, and in Northfield 86 per cent. Average daily attendance throughout State was under 52 per cent, and in Northfield, 66 per cent. In 1877—8, the average attendance of pupils between the ages of 5 and 20 throughout the state was about 77 per cent, in Washington Co., 79, in Northfield, 85½. Average daily attendance throughout the State was 52 per cent, in Wash. County, a little over 58, in Northfield, a little over 70 per cent. The average length of schools throughout the State in 1877 was 24.4 per cent, in Washington County, 24.2 per cent, in Northfield, 28.2 per cent.

These statistics are very gratifying, and should encourage the people of the town to still further interest in their schools. Before leaving this part of my report, I can do no less than give great credit to our Graded and High School, which, either directly or indirectly, has had very much to do with producing the gratifying results shown by the above statistics.

To the schools outside the Graded School district, I wish to make a few suggestions, hoping they will receive that considera-

tion the importance of the subject demands. As all are conducted on the same general plan, I may speak to them all, as to one school. First, there ought to be a change in the time of the terms of the school year. Every one who has given the subject any attention, knows that the same set of pupils will make much more progress in two terms, when there is only an interval of two weeks vacation between, than they can where an interval of three months stretches its blank length from one term to another. This being the case, the usual summer term should be omitted, and the first term of the year begin about the first of Sept. This being done, one teacher should be engaged for the entire year, except when proven, after fair trial to be incompetent. No one thing would do so much to advance our common schools, as the retaining of a good teacher *as long as possible*. Our best scholars recognize this fact, and act accordingly. There are two strong arguments in favor of the fall instead of the summer term, beside that of consecutiveness. First, Both teacher and scholars can do better work in the cooler months, than through the sultry months of July and August. Second, Any one looking over the school registers will notice that of a large number who begin the summer term and attend a few weeks regularly, as soon as berries begin to ripen they the absent themselves to gather them, and from this time to end of the term they are absent so much of the time picking berries, hoeing, or haying, that the school does them no real good. I have been in schools, registering more than twenty pupils, in a day in haying, to find not more than half a dozen present. If the term was in the Fall, this evil would be almost entirely obviated, and, I think also, that large numbers of the older boys would be able to begin attendance by the middle of the fall term when their fall work would be nearly done, thus securing 18 weeks of nearly steady school, instead of 12 weeks as is now usually the case. If the same teacher is employed throughout the year, no time will be lost at the beginning of the second term by teacher and pupils being strange to each other, and work can go steadily and uninterruptedly on.

I have before spoken of the great need of more black-board room in the school rooms. Black-boards are cheap, and they, with *chalk to use on them*, are almost a necessity to teacher and pupil.

A prescribed course of study, to be as closely followed, as circumstances will admit, is a thing to be desired. There will be found on the 3d page of the school registers, a carefully prepared course, which is recommended by State Superintendent Conant. This, or any other course, can only be successfully carried out when the terms of the school year closely follow each other, and when the same teacher is kept more than one term. Will not some of the districts in town try the plan of having the school begin in the fall, and of employing the same teacher throughout the year? Let us see if the district schools cannot be a little better systematized.

TEXT BOOKS. I spoke in my last year's report of the evils arising from the large number of different text books in use. The matter has not improved any the past year. You are aware that a law was passed at the last session of the Legislature for the purpose of securing uniformity in this regard. While it is desirable that as few changes be made as possible, and books now in use should be kept in use as far as possible, yet in order to secure uniformity some must change. I desire to call your attention to the fact that

the law has decided that only one kind of text book of each grade be used in a town. I think where changes are required, it would be well if the town would supply the new book in place of the old one of the same grade, as this would equalize the expense, and the tax on the town would be light. Perhaps this is due to many with large families who do not feel able to procure the new books. I call your attention to this fact so that no more books be purchased than are absolutely necessary till after the "text book committee" makes its report, about the first of August.

Section 9 of the act relating to text books empowers towns to purchase and hold text books for use in their schools whenever the inhabitants in legal town meeting, warned for that purpose, vote to do so. As the selection of text books for the next five years is a matter of much importance to every citizen in town, care should be taken in the selection of the "text book committee" that the interests of the various parts of the town be served. In this town, the graded school district, by calling a meeting for that purpose, in the month of March, may elect two persons as members of the committee. The full committee for this town will, therefore, including Town Superintendent, numbers five persons.

School houses are in much the same condition as last year. One or two, it is to be hoped, will soon carry out the thing they have long threatened—that is, to give out entirely, like the famous "one horse shay." The last time I visited the school in No. 8 one end of part of the floor rested calmly on the ground—a foundation not soon likely to rot away, though the winds blowing through the aperture caused by the this "change of base" would *seem* to endanger the lives of teacher and pupils. I would like to suggest, also, that one hitching post, at least, near every school house, would be a great convenience to those visiting the schools.

While on the whole, there is reason to believe that our schools are improving, yet, by paying attention to a few little matters that that are now neglected, not only would the schools be improved, but the attention and interest of our people be aroused in a way that would lead to the best results. If people worked harder for their neighborhood schools, they would like them better, and be more pleased when they succeeded.

CHARLES DOLE.

Town Superintendent.

